Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims at a later date.

1.-5.   (canceled)

6.   (new) A circuit arrangement for securing communication between network subscribers within a peer-to-peer network, comprising:

a crypto module for handling cryptographic functions;

a network module for communication with a further network subscriber and a server that is not within to the peer-to-peer network;

a first memory module comprising a plurality of memory sub-modules that store association features relating to a first network subscriber; and

a second memory module comprising memory sub-modules for buffering a certificate of the further network subscriber,

wherein the certificate of the further network subscriber is requested by another other network subscriber.

7.   (new) The circuit arrangement as claimed in claim 6, wherein the arrangement is disposed in the first network subscriber.

8.   (new) The circuit arrangement as claimed in claim 6, wherein the server produces the certificate that is stored in the second memory module.

9.   (new) The circuit arrangement as claimed in claim 8, wherein the arrangement is disposed in the first network subscriber.

10.   (new) A method for securing communication between network subscribers within a peer-to-peer network, comprising:

providing cryptographic functions via a crypto module, the functions selected from the group consisting of generating a signature, authenticity check of a signature, validity check of a certificate, encrypting a confidential message to be sent, decrypting a received message;

communicating via a network module with a further network subscriber and with a server that is not within to the peer-to-peer network;

storing association features relating to a first network subscriber in a first memory module;

storing a certificate of the further network subscriber in a second memory module; and

receiving a request by the further network subscriber for the certificate of the further network subscriber.

11.   (new) The method as claimed in claim 10, further comprises receiving the certificate of the further network subscriber from the server prior to the storing of the certificate.

12.   (new) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the certificate of the further network subscriber is created via the server.